

## A NEW SPECIES OF *THELESPERMA* (ASTERACEAE) FROM WYOMING

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ABSTRACT.—*Thelesperma pubescens* Dorn is described as new to science from Uinta County, Wyoming.

In southwest Wyoming, I encountered what appeared to be *Thelesperma marginatum* Rydb. but the leaves were conspicuously pubescent. This was very unusual since species of *Thelesperma* in this region are all glabrous or nearly so. Further study revealed that these plants also had a different caudex from *T. marginatum*. These major differences support specific status for these plants.

*Thelesperma pubescens* Dorn, sp. nov.

Perennius; radicibus crassis lignosis; caudicibus ramosis; caulibus glabris 3–12 cm altis; foliis basalibus plerumque pinnatidivisis pubescentibus; capitulis 1 vel 2; involucri 5–9 mm altis; ligulis nullis; disci corollis luteis ca 5 mm longis; pappi nullis; achaeniis glabris ca 4 mm longis (Fig. 1).

Perennial from a thick woody taproot and branched caudex that bears a dense series of persistent old leaf bases (absent in very young plants); stems 3–12 cm high, glabrous, mostly leafless; leaves mostly basal, 1–5 cm long, pinnately divided into mostly 3–5, usually linear segments, rarely simple, conspicuously pubescent; heads 1 or rarely 2; involucre 5–9 mm high, inner bracts much broader and longer than outer and with broad scarious margins; ray flowers lacking; disk corollas yellow, about 5 mm long, dilated at base, with reddish brown longitudinal veins that split at each corolla sinus and pair and meet with an adjacent vein at tip of corolla lobes;

pappus lacking; achenes glabrous, angled, about 4 mm long, each subtended by a longer membranous bract.

TYPE.—USA, Wyoming: Uinta Co., Hickey Mountain, T13N, R114W, S13 E½, 8,400 ft, rocky ridge, 20 August 1982, Dorn 3823 (Holotype RM; Isotypes to be distributed).

OTHER SPECIMENS.—Same location as holotype, 8 July 1982, Dorn 3752 (RM); Wyoming: Uinta Co., Sage Creek Mountain, T14N, R113W, S34 NE¼, 8,200 ft, rocky outcrop, 30 July 1979, Aldrich 592 (RM).

*Thelesperma pubescens* differs from *T. marginatum* in having conspicuously pubescent leaves and a thicker, more branched caudex with a dense series of persistent old leaf bases. The latter characteristic is common in desert plants. The caudex in *T. marginatum* is generally simple or few-branched, slender, somewhat rhizomatous, and lacks the persistent old leaf bases. Another related species, *T. subnudum* Gray, is similar to *T. marginatum* except ray flowers are usually present. The two are often considered varieties of the same species. These species are quite scattered in their distribution so it is difficult to say from which of these two *T. pubescens* was derived. The location of *T. pubescens* is between the distributions of the other two species. *Thelesperma marginatum* is found to the north, and *T. subnudum* is found to the south. It is also possible, but unlikely, that these two species were both derived from *T. pubescens*.

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Fig. 1. *Thelesperma pubescens* Dorn: lower center, entire plant, scale bar = 1 cm. Upper left, flower, scale bar = 2 mm. Upper right, leaf tip, scale bar = 1 mm.